

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by deleting the last paragraph on page 2, and replacing it with the following replacement paragraph:

A¹
"It has, however, now been found, surprisingly, that the use of waxes for the matting of cured material based on the thermally curable systems described above can be substantially or even completely dispensed with by using the aforementioned metal salts and/or metal complexes (component a) that have a matting action, which are known *per se*, together with a polymerisation product (component b) having a molecular weight of preferably more than 1500, especially more than 2000 (Mn = number average; gel permeation chromatography ("GPC") using polystyrene calibration), the monomers on which the polymerisation product is based including"

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A²
IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please cancel original claims 1-23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 24-79:

24. (New) A matting agent for thermally curable systems that comprise at least one carboxyl-containing polymer as binder and at least one epoxy-group-containing compound as cross-linking agent, wherein said matting agent comprises at least the following constituents:

- (a) a metal salt or a metal complex of an organic compound, the metal being selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium, zinc, aluminium, tin and antimony; and
- (b) a polymerisation product of monomers, the monomers including epoxy-group-containing monomers and the epoxy value of the polymerisation product being at least 0.1 equivalents of epoxy groups per kilogram; and

wherein the overall ratio of epoxy equivalents of component (b) to metal equivalents of component (a) is from 0.2 to 120.